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(12) United States Patent Burt et al.

(54) ELECTRONICALLY SWITCHABLE OPTICAL DEVICE WITH A MULTI-FUNCTIONAL OPTICAL CONTROL APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR OPERATING THE SAME

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(58) Field of Classification Search

See application file for complete search history.

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(57) ABSTRACT

An electronically controllable optical device is provided which includes a cell maintaining an electro-optically controllable material, a photosensor associated with the cell, wherein the photosensor generates an input signal based on ambient light level, and a control circuit which receives the input signal and generates at least one output signal received by the cell. The device also includes a single switch connected to the control circuit, wherein actuation of the switch in predetermined sequences enables at least two of the following features of the device, a state change of the material, a system change between auto and manual modes, or a threshold value change for generation of the ambient light input signal, a device color change, a device tint change or a reset of the threshold value to the original factory setting. Methods of operation for the device are also provided. A control apparatus for the device is also disclosed.

23 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets

